

WEDGE BREWING NAMES BEER FOR LATE ARTIST BORA



Vadim Bora works on a sculpture in his Asheville studio in 2005. Wedge brewing is honoring the late artist, who died unexpectedly a year ago, by naming a stout in his honor. JOHN FLETCHER/JFLETCHER@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

A toast to Vadim

Late Asheville artist
honored with local brew

By Tony Kiss

tkiss@citizen-times.com

ASHEVILLE — By all accounts, the late Asheville artist Vadim Bora enjoyed robust brown beers. And one of his regular hangouts was the Wedge Brewing Co. in the River Arts District.

And so, a year after his sudden death at age 56, Wedge Brewing will rename one of its most popular brews in his honor.

The Wedge's raspberry Russian imperial stout will become Vadim Bora Russian Imperial stout. The 9.2 percent alcohol seasonal brew will be available through early February, Wedge Brewing owner Tim Schaller said.

"It's such a wonderful idea," said Bora's widow, Constance Richards. While his studio was in downtown Asheville, "Vadim spent a lot time in the River Arts District," she said. "I think he would be pleased and proud. Porters and stouts were his favorite

beers."

Only a few Asheville beers have been named for locals. The Wedge only bestows the honor "to people who have made an impact in Asheville," Schaller said.

They include John Payne, founder of the Wedge Gallery where the brewery is located (honored with a pale ale) and philanthropist Julian Price, whose name is on the Wedge pilsner. At Wedge, the honoree must be deceased to have their name on a brew, Schaller said.

Bora and a group of friends enjoyed "boys night out" gatherings at the Wedge, Schaller said.

Placing the right name on a beer requires "a lot of effort," said Oscar Wong, founder of Highland Brewing, which has named its seasonal beers after local mountaintops.

"We could easily consider naming a brew for a person," he said. "It would not be a simple matter to agree on which name. But I am definitely open



Vadim Bora, the late Asheville artist, loved to hang out at the Wedge in the River Arts District. SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

to the idea."

Bora, a sculptor and painter who was born in Asheville's sister city of Vladikavkaz in the North Ossetia region of Russia, was one of the city's best known artists.

He died Jan. 5, 2011, from complications after a stroke a month earlier. His work remains on exhibit around town, including the trio of cats on Wall Street, a crucifix at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Charlotte Street and a bronze sculpture of Cornelia Vanderbilt and her dog Cedric at Biltmore Estate's Antler Hill Village center.